

Serial No. 09/740,134

REMARKS:

Applicant affirms election of Group I, which includes method claims 13-15. Some of the apparatus claims have been amended to depend from the method claim of Group I. Claims 13-15, 18-21, 23-25, and 27 are pending in the application. Claims 16, 17, 22, and 26 have been cancelled by this amendment, and new claim 27 has been presented.

The drawings were objected to for not showing foam. Foam is referred to throughout the specification as element 2. However, Figure 6 inadvertently switched elements 2 and 3, and a proposed correction to Figure 6 is included with this amendment.

The title was objected to as being non-descriptive. Although the title was relatively long, the title was descriptive of the invention. Nonetheless, the Applicant has amended the title to shorten and hopefully clarify the description.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under §112, first paragraph, for failing to provide support for steps c) and d). Claims 13-15 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 13-15 have been amended to comply with §112. The entry point of the originally presented claim is the opening referred to on page 3, lines 23 and 35 and on page 4, line 8. The electrical lead of original claim 13 should have read the plug-in connection element.

Claims 13-15 was rejected under §102(b) over Ito. The use of a foam is not shown in Ito. Furthermore, step c) of amended claim 13 is not shown in Ito, which requires the pressure of the foam force the closure part into the opening of the plug-in connection. Accordingly, the pending claims are allowable.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the pending claims in the application are allowable. Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims. If any fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked up version of Claims showing changes

13. (Amended) A method of sealing plug-in connection elements of electrical line systems during [the] foaming in place of [such] the elements that are to be foamed in place in components, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a plug-in connection element with an [entry point] opening;
- b) arranging an elastically deformable closure part with an electrical lead proximate to the [entry point] opening;
- c) forcing the elastically deformable closure part into the [entry point] opening of the [electrical lead] ~~plug-in connection element~~ under the pressure of foam; and
- d) sealing the elastically deformable closure part in the [entry point] opening of the [electrical lead] ~~plug-in connection element~~ under the pressure of foam.

18. (Amended) The [connection element] ~~method~~ according to claim [17] 13, wherein the closure part is formed integrally with [the] a body of the plug-in connection element.

19. (Amended) The [connection element] ~~method~~ according to claim [17] 13, wherein the closure part is connected to [the] a body of the plug-in connection element by moulding.

20. (Amended) The [connection elements] ~~method~~ according to claim [17] 13, wherein the closure part is fitted in a sealed manner onto [the] a body of the plug-in connection element.

21. (Amended) The [connection elements] ~~method~~ according to claim [16] 13, wherein the flexible lips have surface area enlargements near an end of the flexible lips.

23. (Amended) The [connection element] ~~method~~ according to claim [16] 13, wherein [an] ~~the~~ opening in [the] a body of the plug-in connection element tapers outward for receiving a corresponding taper ~~on the closure part~~.

24. (Amended) The [connection element] ~~method~~ according to claim 23, wherein the closure part

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has a collar on its end opposite the opening.

25. (Amended) The [connection element] method according to claim 23, wherein the closure part has a plurality of peripheral beads.